



Chimpanzee in Gombe Stream National Park. Conserving biodiversity supports both wildlife and surrounding communities.

Photo: USAID/Jessica Padron

TANZANIA

LANDSCAPE CONSERVATION IN WESTERN TANZANIA

Partnering with the Jane Goodall Institute (JGI), the Landscape Conservation in Western Tanzania (LCWT) activity works to protect endangered chimpanzee populations, safeguard their habitat through effective land use planning, and empower local communities by supporting more productive and sustainable livelihoods in the Gombe-Masito-Ugalla (GMU) landscape. The GMU landscape, located in Western Tanzania, harbors over 90% of Tanzania's estimated 2,200 chimpanzees.

This important population of chimpanzees is facing increasing threats due to habitat loss and fragmentation from illegal logging, settlement expansion, and conversion of habitat for agricultural purposes. Chimpanzees are also directly at risk from nearby human communities through disease transmission and human-wildlife conflict.

Underlying these threats, rapidly growing human populations in Western Tanzania are depleting natural resources and expanding unsustainable land use practices. These issues, paired with inadequate capacity of local government to effectively manage natural resources, have limited conservation outcomes.

Guided by JGI-led chimpanzee conservation action plans at regional and national scales, the LCWT activity will increase the organization's reach from 74 villages to 104 in the Kigoma and Uvinza districts in the Kigoma region, and the Mpanda and Tanganyika districts in the Katavi region. This includes the former refugee settlements in Katumba and Mishamo.

The program's activities include:

- **Natural Resource Management:** Strengthening local government's ability to facilitate conservation practice and effective natural resource management.
- **Land Use Planning & Sustainable Development:** Helping local governments and communities implement sustainable land use plans and livelihood development.
- **Population, Health, and Environment:** Expanding activities to improve awareness of and access to reproductive health and family planning resources.
- **Monitoring:** Improving monitoring of conservation and development targets and threats using innovative technologies to compile, analyze and share data as part of a decision support and alert system. The improved information from the system enables JGI and local stakeholders to test, validate and adapt decisions that will guide LCWT activities.
- **Environmental Education:** Expanding the reach and effectiveness of community-based sensitization and environmental education efforts to inspire behavior change that will protect chimpanzees and their habitats.

Results

- 1.43 million hectares of biologically significant areas under improved management
- Legal establishment of two Local Authority Forest Reserves i.e., Tongwe West (over 365,000 hectares) and Masito (over 156,000 hectares)
- Engagement with the newly naturalized communities in Mishamo and Katumba (56 Community Conservation Banks groups formed with 1,044 members i.e., 434 males, 610 females)
- Restoration of Gombe-Burundi wildlife corridor (Surveys found 22 Chimpanzees using this area)
- Nearly 253,000 people with improved economic benefits derived from sustainable natural resource management and/or biodiversity conservation.
- 250 community health workers trained on providing family planning information, referrals, and/or services.
- 74 villages and 4 District councils developed and implementing Land Use Plans for conservation.
- 101 school clubs formed involving nearly 15,000 students in environmental education activities.

BUDGET \$19.9 million

DURATION

November 2018 – November 2023

ACTIVITY LOCATIONS

Kigoma and Katavi Regions

IMPLEMENTING PARTNER

The Jane Goodall Institute

PARTNERS

Pathfinder International RTI
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